Experimental Test of Ground-based Rodent Control in Hawaiian Rainforest

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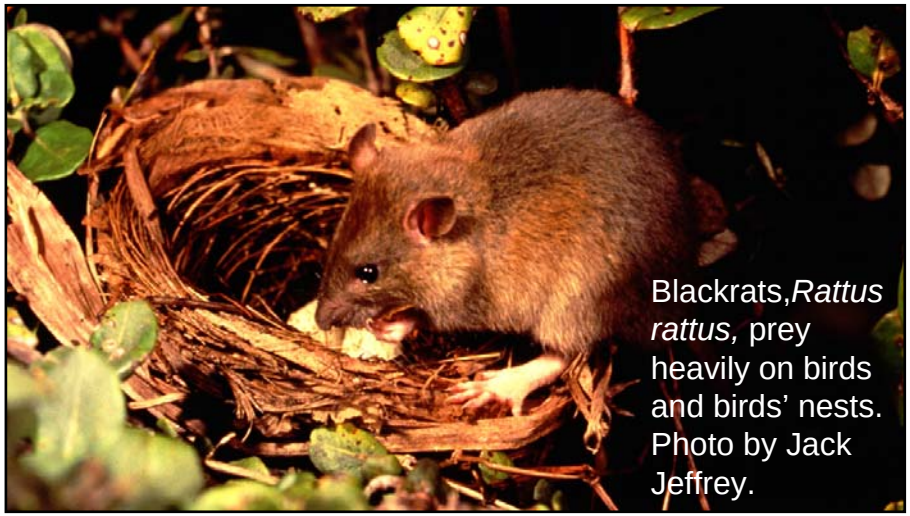

Blackrats,*Rattus rattus,* prey heavily on birds and birds' nests. Photo by Jack Jeffrey.

Objectives:

- ☆ Determine the feasibility, cost, and effectiveness of ground-based rodent control in remote rainforest ecosystems
- ☆ Document the impact of rodent control on forest bird populations

Accomplishments:

- ☆ Documented cost & person-days required per km2 to reduce rodents to <5% of pre-control levels
- ☆ Documented rodent abundance, forest bird productivity, population size, and nesting success before and after treatment

Significance:

- ☆ First and largest experimental test on effectiveness of ground-based rodent control methods
- ☆ Model for ground-based management on Hawai'i, O'ahu, Maui and Kauai
- ☆ Applied to protection of rare plants, birds, and insects